



MAMMALS <http://www.peoriazoo.org/mammals.html>

Giraffe

Giraffa camelopardalis

Peoria Zoo Exhibit **Africa!**

<http://www.peoriazoo.org/africa.html>

Habitat: Are found in savannas, grasslands, or open woodlands.

Range: Mainly found south of the Sahara.

Activity Cycle: Diurnal– active during the day

Size: Males can be up to 18 feet tall and 3000 pounds, females up to 14 feet tall and 1500 pounds. Their necks measure about 6 feet long and weighs 600 pounds!

Social Structure: Giraffes are social animals, living in loose herds varying from 10-20 individuals. There are no leaders in the group, herds can be all female, all male, female with young calves, or mixed genders and ages.

Distinguishing Features: Giraffes are the tallest land mammals. Their coat is spotted and varies by individual. Giraffes have large, purplish tongues that are 18 inches long. These tongues are used to reach leaves other animals can't reach. Their long necks have 7 vertebrae, the same number as humans.

Diet: Various browse, leaves and shoots of trees

Life Span: 20-25 years in captivity

Did you know?

A giraffes heart is 2 feet long and weighs about 25 pounds. It can pump 16 gallons of blood in one minute.